THE ETERNALS

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WHEN GODS WALK THE EARTH!

THE ETERNALS™

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SPECIAL! SEE THE INCREDIBLE WRATH OF IKARIS the ETERNAL!

THEIR ATTACK ON THE SPACE GOD WAS NATURAL! THE RESULT WAS HORRIBLY UNNATURAL! —READ— "THE RUSSIANS ARE COMING!!"

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Strange events have exposed a startling fact, kept alive through the centuries only by myth and superstition—man is not alone on the evolutionary chain!! He has shared the planet with two species unknown to him! Now, in a sudden burst of violence, the Deviants have risen from their domain beneath the sea to challenge all humanity!! But mankind has unexpected allies—

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE ETERNALS!™

EDITED, WRITTEN, AND DRAWN BY **JACK KIRBY** INKED AND LETTERED BY **MIKE ROYER**

THIS IS WHAT HAS HAPPENED: GIANTS HAVE COME FROM SPACE TO BEGIN A FIFTY YEAR JUDGEMENT OF ALL THAT LIVES ON EARTH! THEY PROWL THE PLANET... THEY PROBE THE OCEANS... THEIR AWESOME VESSEL ORBITS **ABOVE US** LIKE A COSMIC SENTRY...

THIS IS WHAT IS HAPPENING: HUMANS EVERYWHERE ARE REACTING TO THIS--AND MORE!! WE SHARE OUR PLANET WITH TWO **FANTASTIC** SPECIES--THE IMMORTAL **ETERNALS** AND THE SCHEMING **DEVIANTS** WHO MUST FACE THIS **WITH** US!

THIS IS WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN: HUMANS WILL STRIKE FIRST!!

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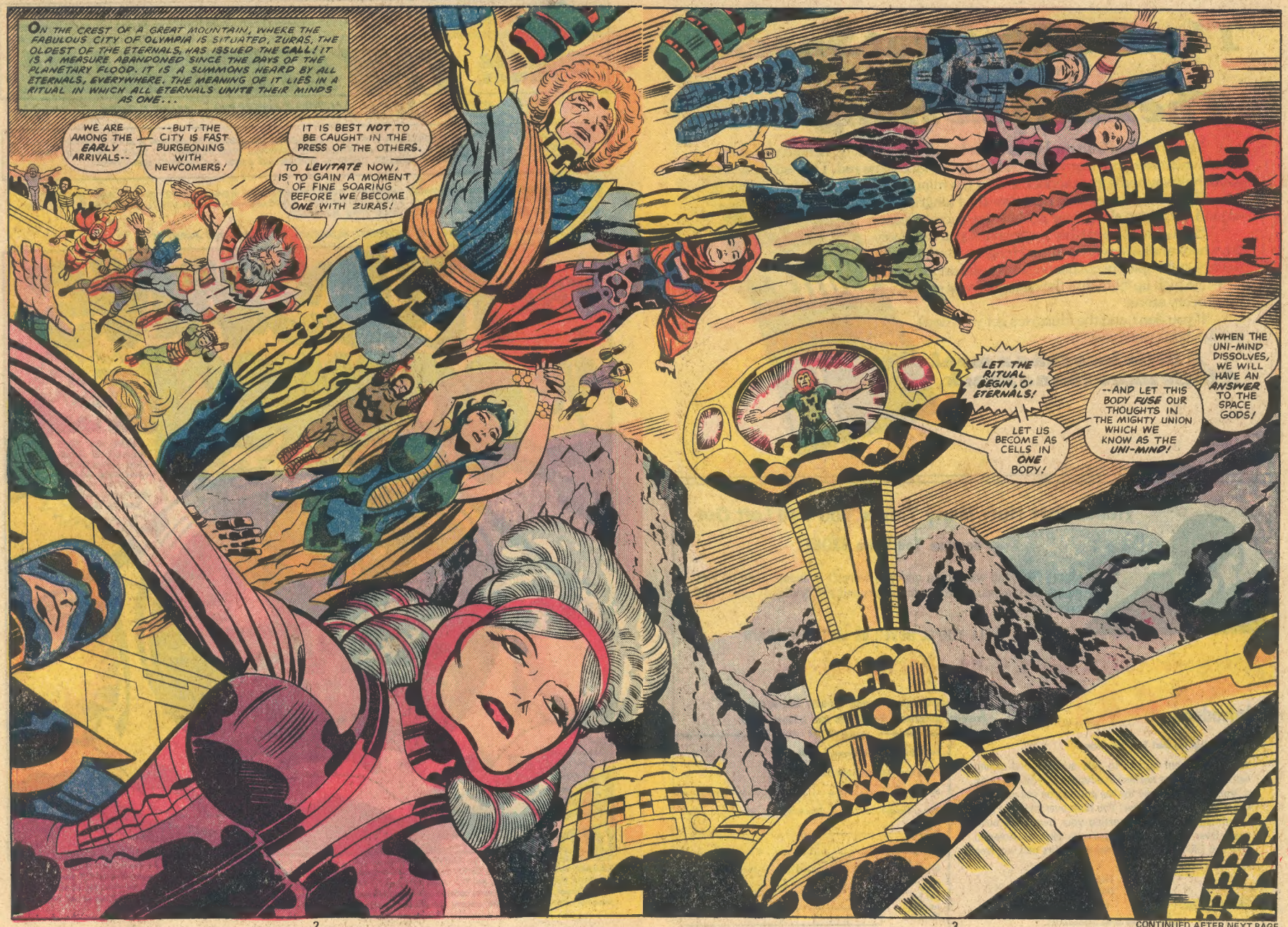

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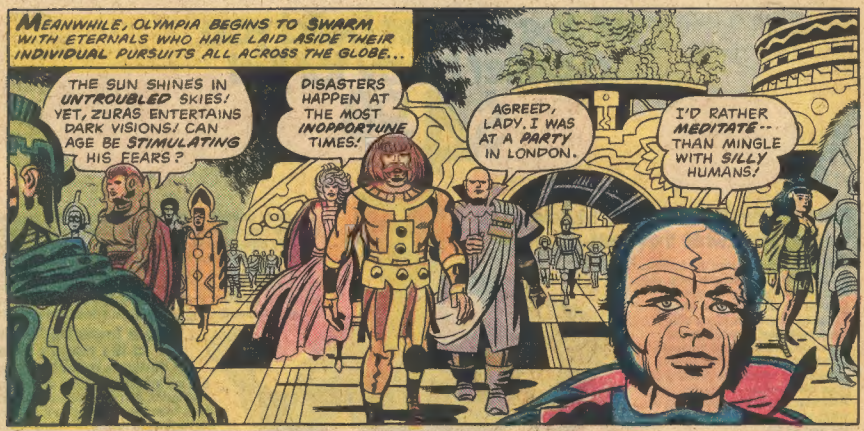
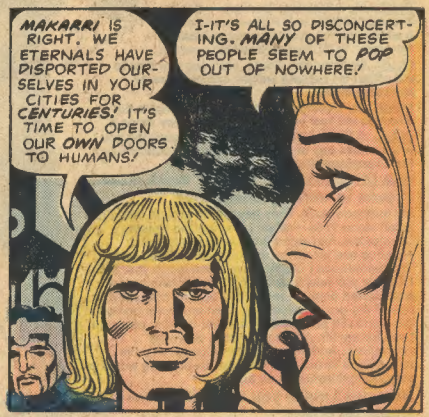
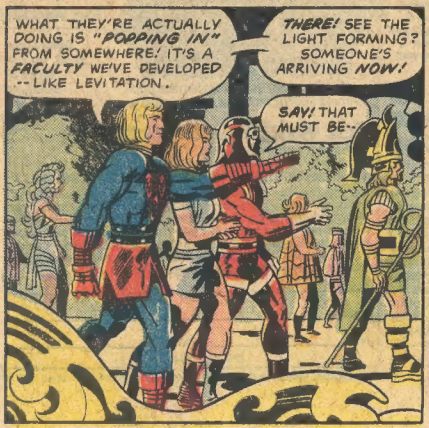

MEANWHILE, OLYMPIA BEGINS TO SWARM WITH ETERNALS WHO HAVE LAID ASIDE THEIR INDIVIDUAL PURSUITS ALL ACROSS THE GLOBE...
THE SUN SHINES IN UNTROUBLED SKIES! YET, ZURAS ENTERTAINS DARK VISIONS! CAN AGE BE STIMULATING HIS EEARS?
DISASTERS HAPPEN AT THE MOST INOPPORTUNE TIMES!
AGREED, LADY. I WAS AT A PARTY IN LONDON.
I'D RATHER MEDITATE-- THAN MINGLE WITH SILLY HUMANS!

BUT A HUMAN IS PRESENT IN THE GATHERING CROWD. MARGO DAMIAN FEELS AWED BY THESE OLYMPIAN SURROUNDINGS...
NERVOUS, MARGO?
I-I SUPPOSE I AM, IKARIS! ALL THIS IS JUST TOO FAR OUT!
HANG LOOSE, GIRL. YOU'RE WELCOME HERE!


MAKARRI IS RIGHT. WE ETERNALS HAVE DISPORTED OURSELVES IN YOUR CITIES FOR CENTURIES! IT'S TIME TO OPEN OUR OWN DOORS TO HUMANS!
I-IT'S ALL SO DISCONCERTING. MANY OF THESE PEOPLE SEEM TO POP OUT OF NOWHERE!


WHAT THEY'RE ACTUALLY DOING IS "POPPING IN" FROM SOMEWHERE! IT'S A FACULTY WE'VE DEVELOPED --LIKE LEVITATION.
THERE! SEE THE LIGHT FORMING? SOMEONE'S ARRIVING NOW!
SAY! THAT MUST BE--

--KINGO SUNEN! I'D KNOW HIS SAMURAI SILHOUETTE ANYWHERE!
POF!

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PROFESSOR HOLDEN SEEMS A BIT SHAKEN UP BY OUR MODE OF TRAVEL, SERSI!

FEATHER-BRAIN! YOU DIDN'T BRIEF HIM, DID YOU! POPPING OUT OF NEW YORK WITH HIM WAS PROBABLY A BARREL OF LAUGHS TO YOU!

I'D NEVER HAVE MISSED THAT LOOK OF SURPRISE ON SAM'S FACE FOR THE WORLD!

HEH HEH! I-IT'S QUITE AN EXPERIENCE-- SPANNING ALL THAT DISTANCE IN THE TWINKLING OF AN EYE!

I'LL BET!

THE TIME IS AT HAND FOR HUMANS TO FAMILIARIZE THEMSELVES WITH OUR WAYS. COME! ZURAS AND THE UNI-MIND AWAIT US!

YOU SHOW MUCH MORE CONCERN THAN YOUR ICE-BOUND FAMILY, IKARIS. I SEE NONE OF THEM HERE!

FORGET THEM!

THE POLAR MOUNTAIN ETERNALS HAVE ALL HEARD THE CALL! THEY WON'T FAIL GREAT ZURAS!

I-I DON'T REMEMBER YOU EVER MENTIONING YOUR RELATIVES.

IKARIS IS THE BEST OF THOSE BOORS. AND I WOULDN'T RATE HIM AMONG THE TOP TEN MOST POPULAR MALES!

ALAS, THE BLEAK NORTH DOES NOT BREED GENTLE HEARTS. THE POLAR ETERNALS ARE WHERE THUNDER ROLLS AND LIGHTNING RIDES THE SKY--!

YES! MARGO WOULD GET QUITE A JOLT IF SHE KNEW WHERE YOUR BULLY-BOYS ARE!!

AT THAT VERY MOMENT, IN A WAR-ROOM OF THE KREMLIN--!

WE HAVE SPARED YOU NOTHING, COMRADE SECRETARY! THOSE PHOTOGRAPHS SHOULD PROVE CONVINCING--!

WHAT I HAVE SEEN IS-- INCREDIBLE, COMRADE GENERAL!

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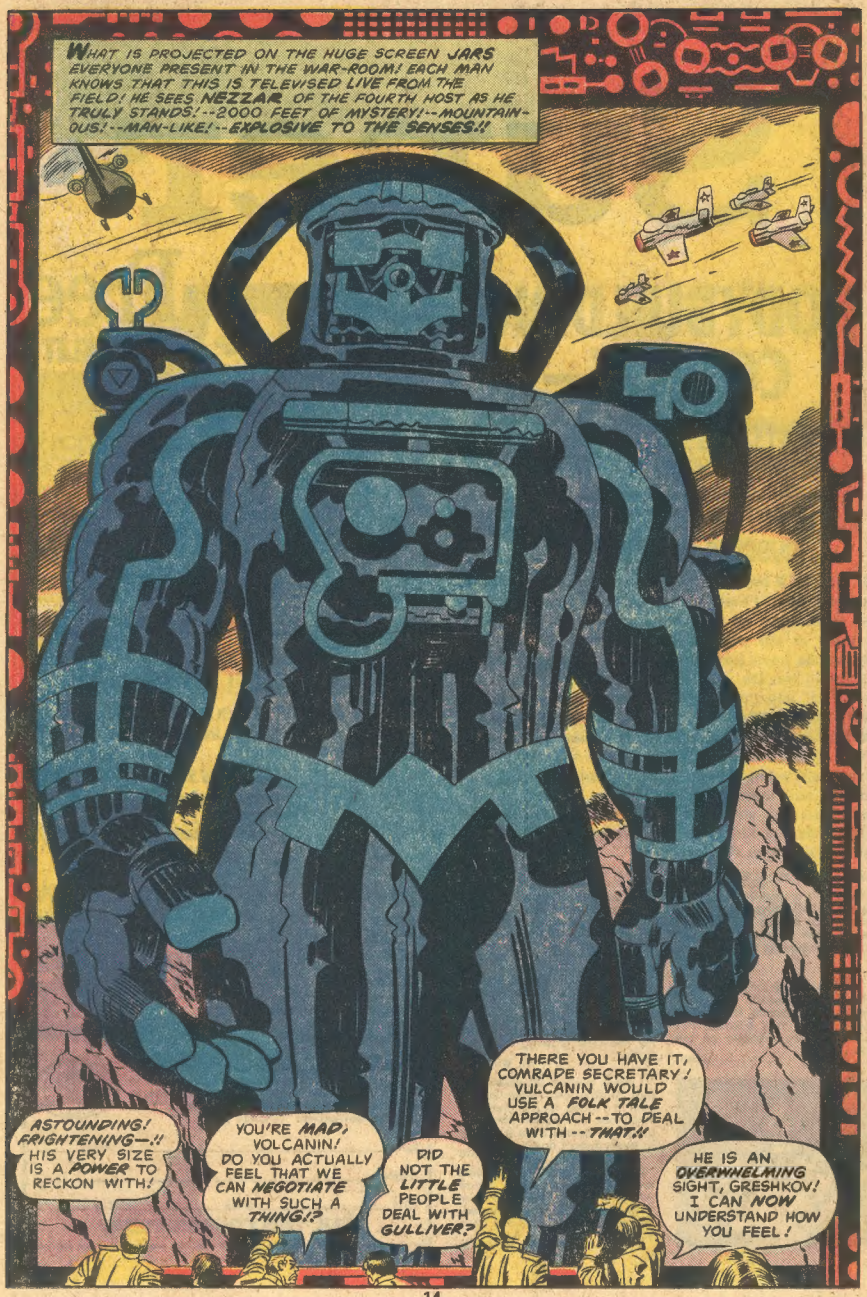

WHAT IS PROJECTED ON THE HUGE SCREEN JARS EVERYONE PRESENT IN THE WAR-ROOM! EACH MAN KNOWS THAT THIS IS TELEVISED LIVE FROM THE FIELD! HE SEES NEZZAR OF THE FOURTH HOST AS HE TRULY STANDS! --2000 FEET OF MYSTERY! --MOUNTAINOUS! --MAN-LIKE! --EXPLOSIVE TO THE SENSES!!
ASTOUNDING! FRIGHTENING—!! HIS VERY SIZE IS A POWER TO RECKON WITH!
YOU'RE MAD, VOLCANIN! DO YOU ACTUALLY FEEL THAT WE CAN NEGOTIATE WITH SUCH A THING!?
DID NOT THE LITTLE PEOPLE DEAL WITH GULLIVER?
THERE YOU HAVE IT, COMRADE SECRETARY! VULCANIN WOULD USE A FOLK TALE APPROACH --TO DEAL WITH --THAT!!
HE IS AN OVERWHELMING SIGHT, GRESHKOV! I CAN NOW UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL!

THE REPORT MUST BE GIVEN TO THE RULING PRESIDIUM. THEY MUST ALSO BE SHOWN THESE TELEVISED PICTURES!
LET'S NOT WASTE TIME! YOU KNOW THE DECISION IS IN YOUR HANDS!
YES, THE BOMBS ARE WAITING IN THEIR SILOS! THEY ARE GRESHKOV'S ANSWER TO KNOTTY PROBLEMS!

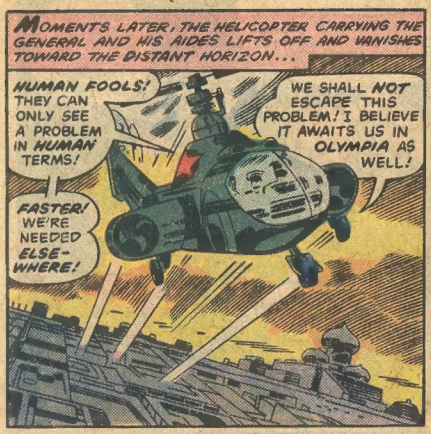
ENOUGH, VULCANIN! CURIOSITY KILLS! POWER TRIUMPHS! WE MUST USE POWER!
AGAINST WHAT?! HAVE YOU GIVEN A THOUGHT TO THAT?

YES, I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT IT! THIS KIND OF PROVOCATION CANNOT BE TOLERATED!! WE MUST ACT AS A NATION OF POWER!
IT'S FINE TO BE PROUD -- BUT IT'S ALSO DANGEROUS! I ASK YOU TO RECONSIDER -- TO TRY COMMUNICATION!!

THAT MAY PROVE IMPOSSIBLE! AS FIRST SECRETARY OF THE PRESIDIUM, I PLACE FULL AUTHORITY FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION IN THE HANDS OF GENERAL GRESHKOV!
THEN, THE DECISION IS MADE! ACTION IS WHAT YOU SHALL GET!
I AM NO LONGER NEEDED HERE. THERE IS A PRESSING APPOINTMENT...

GENERAL VULCANIN LEAVES THE HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE SOON AFTER...
YOUR AIDES ARE WAITING IN THE NEXT ROOM, GENERAL.
CALL MY PILOT! TELL HIM TO STAND-BY FOR TAKE-OFF!

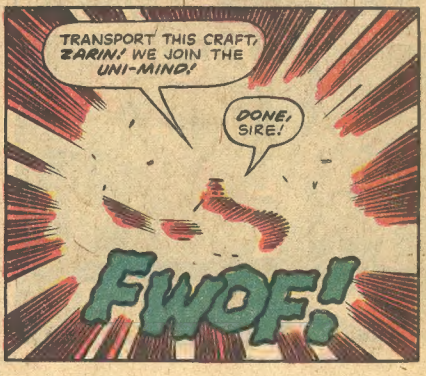
TWO OFFICERS JOIN THE DEPARTURE AS VULCANIN STRIDES TRUCULENTLY FROM THE BUILDING...
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE LOST ONE OF YOUR MEDALS, GENERAL!
WHAT WAS LOST IN IN THERE WAS OF GREATER CONSEQUENCE!
THAT'S TOO BAD!

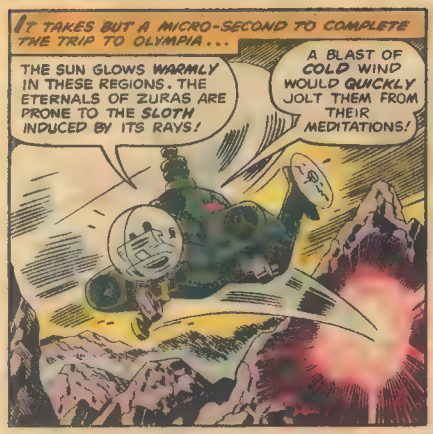

MOMENTS LATER, THE HELICOPTER CARRYING THE GENERAL AND HIS AIDES LIFTS OFF AND VANISHES TOWARD THE DISTANT HORIZON...
HUMAN FOOLS! THEY CAN ONLY SEE A PROBLEM IN HUMAN TERMS!
WE SHALL NOT ESCAPE THIS PROBLEM! I BELIEVE IT AWAITS US IN OLYMPIA AS WELL!
FASTER! WE'RE NEEDED ELSE-WHERE!

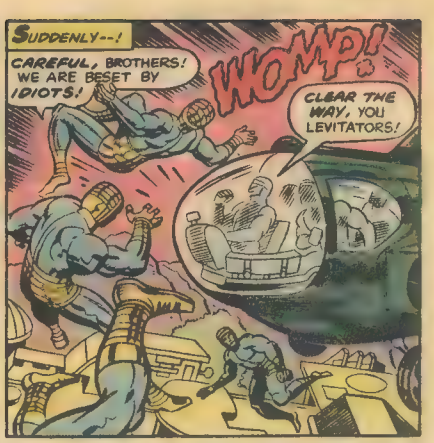
TRUE! LET'S PUT AN END TO THIS RIDICULOUS ILLUSION AND BECOME AS WE REALLY ARE!
TO OBEY THE ALL-FATHER IS TO FOLLOW WISDOM!
THEN, I FIND IT WISER TO LEVITATE THIS TINKER TOY THAN PLAY WITH ITS MECHANICAL RESPONSES!

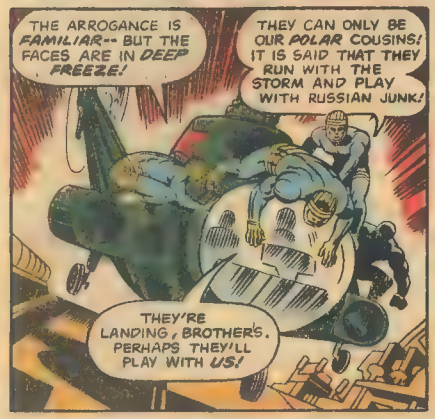
--AND BETTER TO BE VALKIN, OF THE POLAR MOUNTAINS, THAN HOLD HIGH RANK IN A HUMAN MILITARY MACHINE!
I DON'T SUPPOSE THAT YOU AGREE, DRUIG!
TO BE A SON OF VALKIN IS HONOR, INDEED...
HOWEVER, I AM NOT DISPLEASED WITH MY LOT AS A MAJOR IN THE KGB...
SLY TORTURER! YOU LOVE THE FOUL WORK! YOU REVEL IN THE SHAPING OF PLOTS AND THE TRAINING OF ASSASSINS!

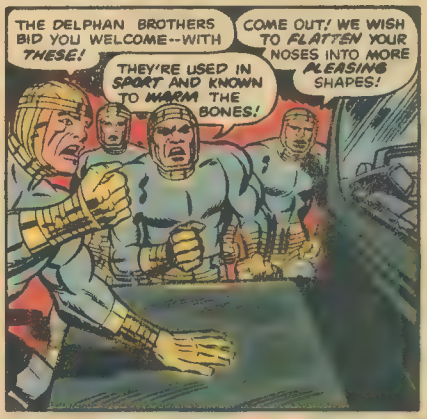
THIS IS A WASTE OF WORDS, AGINAR! WE SERVE AS RUSSIANS TO DISCOURAGE THE FOLLY OF ATOMIC CONFRONTATIONS!
THOUGH... I CANNOT BOAST OF MY SKILLS THIS DAY!
THEY SHALL STILL BE OF HELP IN OLYMPIA, SIRE!

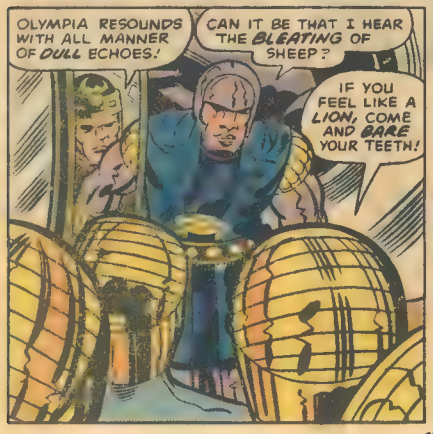

TRANSPORT THIS CRAFT, ZARIN! WE JOIN THE UNI-MIND!
DONE, SIRE!
FWOF!

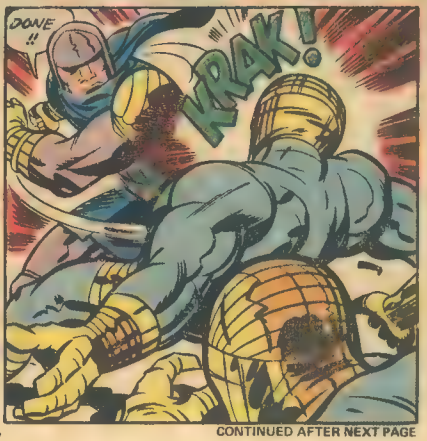












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IT IS A BRISK MOMENT FOR FISTIC-FANATICS AND STORMY PETRELS... ETERNALS, PROVING THAT THEY ARE BUT ANOTHER SPECIES OF MAN...

UGH!

LOK!

YOU'VE GOT A GLASS JAW-- COUSIN!

STAND ASIDE, DELPHANS! --I'LL SOON FELL THIS OX!

POW!

WATCHING PATIENTLY, WITH CONFIDENCE IN THE MIGHT OF HIS BROOD, VALRIN WAITS FOR THE SKIRMISH TO SPEND ITS FURY...

YOU'RE A COOL ONE, DRUIG!

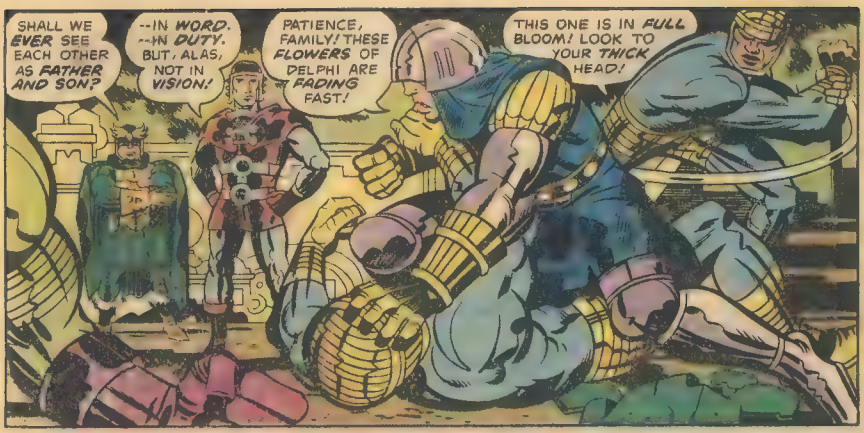
ARE TENSIONS UNKNOWN TO YOUR KIND!?

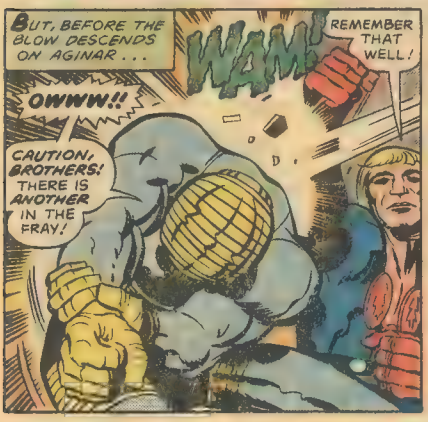
I IGNORE TENSION AS I DO THE NEED FOR HORSE-PLAY!

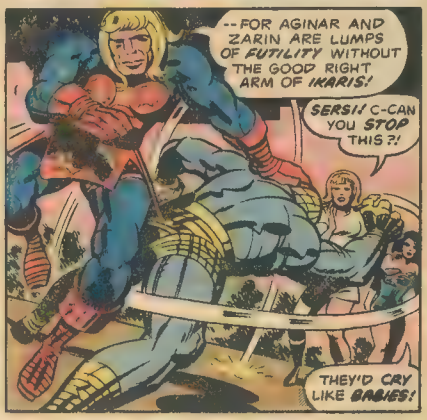
AND, I'VE NEGLECTED YOU, DRUIG! I HAVE ALLOWED OUR INVOLVEMENT WITH HUMANS TO MOLD YOUR CHARACTER!

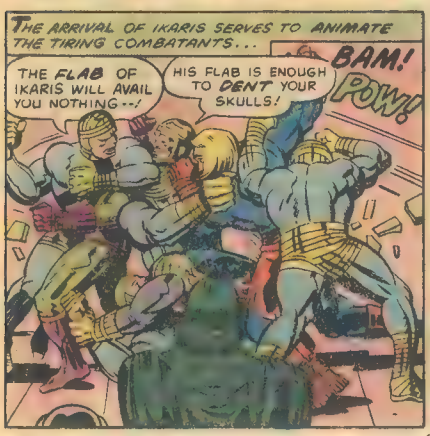
YOU'VE BEEN INFLUENCED BY THE WORST OF THEIR INSTINCTS!

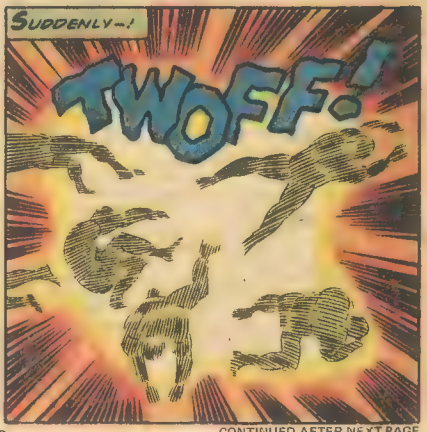
IF YOU SEEK THE HERO IN ME, ALL-FATHER, LOOK THEN-- FROM OTHER VIEWS!











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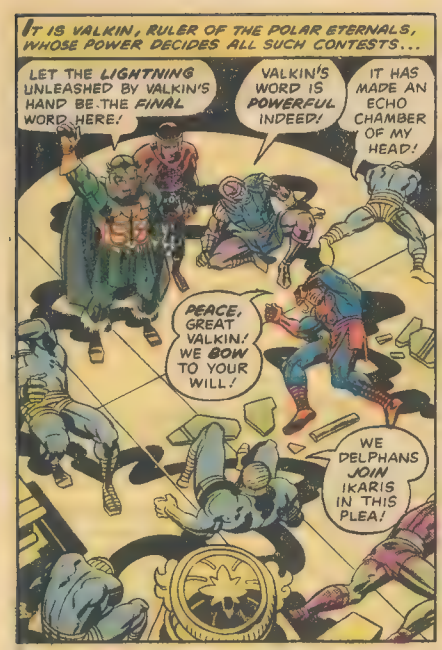
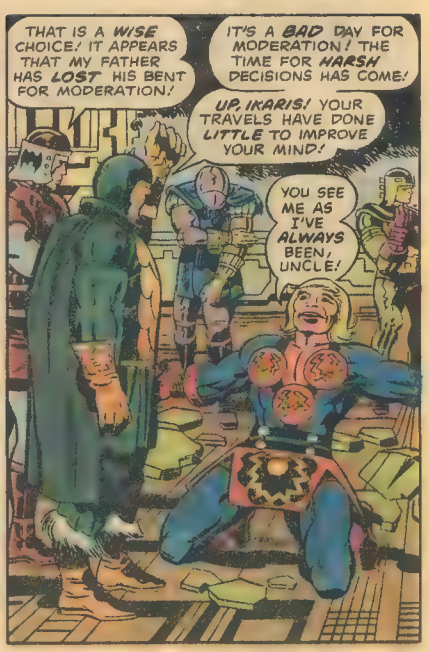
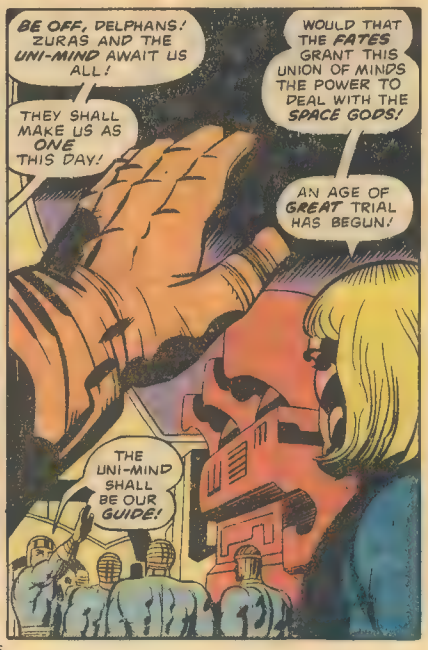
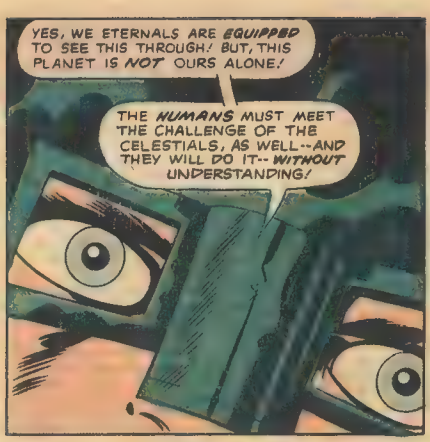
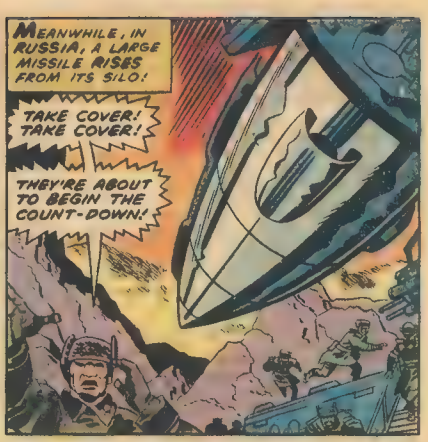

IT IS VALKIN, RULER OF THE POLAR ETERNALS, WHOSE POWER DECIDES ALL SUCH CONTESTS...
LET THE LIGHTNING UNLEASHED BY VALKIN'S HAND BE THE FINAL WORD HERE!
VALKIN'S WORD IS POWERFUL INDEED!
IT HAS MADE AN ECHO CHAMBER OF MY HEAD!
PEACE, GREAT VALKIN! WE BOW TO YOUR WILL!
WE DELPHANS JOIN IKARIS IN THIS PLEA!

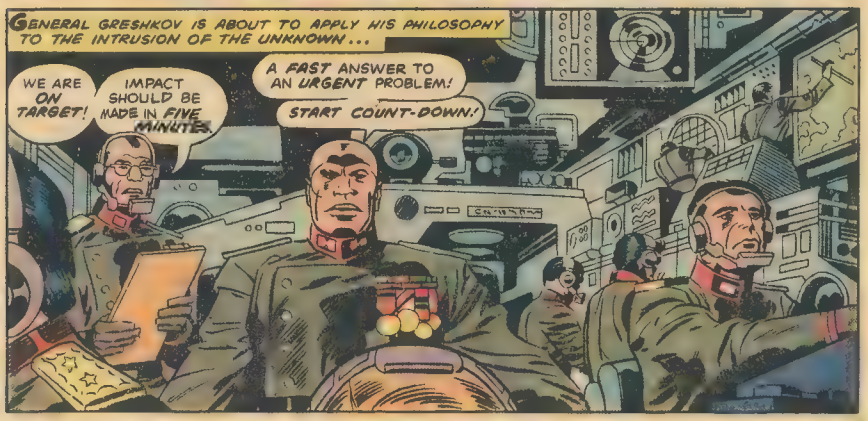

THAT IS A WISE CHOICE! IT APPEARS THAT MY FATHER HAS LOST HIS BENT FOR MODERATION!
IT'S A BAD DAY FOR MODERATION! THE TIME FOR HARSH DECISIONS HAS COME!
UP, IKARIS! YOUR TRAVELS HAVE DONE LITTLE TO IMPROVE YOUR MIND!
YOU SEE ME AS I'VE ALWAYS BEEN, UNCLE!

REBUKE HIM NOT, SIRE! HE IS A LION WHOSE TAIL IS NOT EASILY TWISTED! IKARIS DOES HONOR TO HIS BROTHERS!
WE'D RATHER FIGHT IKARIS THAN CANNY DRUIG!
TRUE! HIS KIND OF SPORT IS TOO GRIM FOR OUR LIKING!
ENOUGH! WE END THIS AT VALKIN'S WORD!


BE OFF, DELPHANS! ZURAS AND THE UNI-MIND AWAIT US ALL!
WOULD THAT THE FATES GRANT THIS UNION OF MINDS THE POWER TO DEAL WITH THE SPACE GODS!
THEY SHALL MAKE US AS ONE THIS DAY!
AN AGE OF GREAT TRIAL HAS BEGUN!
THE UNI-MIND SHALL BE OUR GUIDE!







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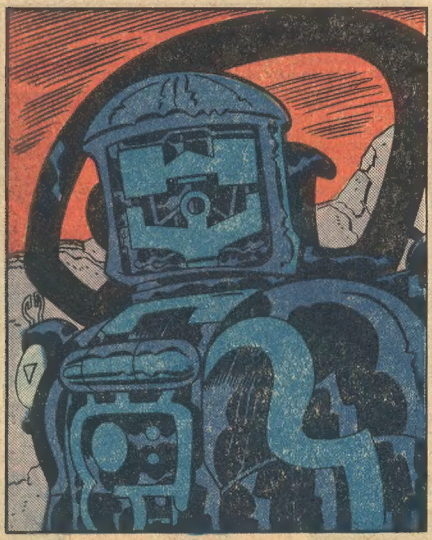
IMPACT IS ALMOST AT HAND! AT GROUND ZERO, NEZZAR OF THE FORTH HOST WILL MOMENTARILY BE AT THE CENTER OF A HOLOCAUST FIFTY MILES WIDE!! YET, HE STARES UNDISTURBED, AND IS CALM IN HIS THOUGHTS...

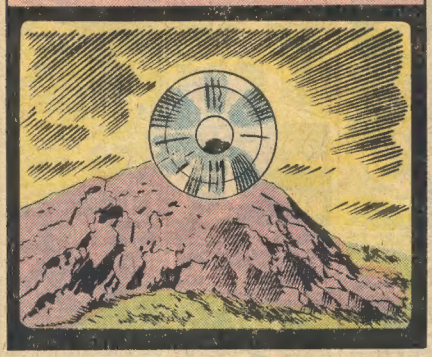


HIS THOUGHTS ARE ALL-ENCOMPASSING, ALL-SATURATING--BLANKETING THE REGIONS BEFORE HIM TO MONITOR EN MASSE THE GROUP MIND OF THE HUMANS. IT IS A SORRY TASK TO BE A JUDGE OF LIFE. A WAVE OF SADNESS OVERTAKES NEZZAR--AND WASHES ACROSS HIS VISAGE IN RIPPLES OF ENERGY...

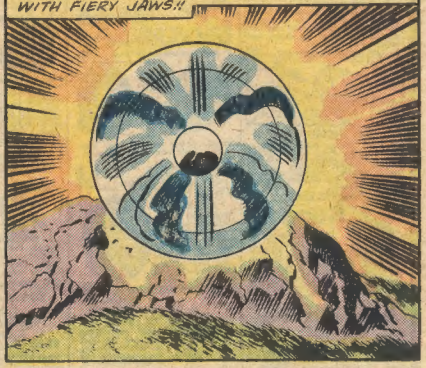
UNKNOWN TO THE WATCHERS IN THE BUNKER, THE ISSUE OF THE MISSILE HAS BEEN DECIDED LONG BEFORE THE FIRING. THEY SEE THE H-BOMB REACH THE GREAT CELESTIAL--AND SUDDENLY, INEXPLICABLY REVERSE ITS COURSE!!

THE HORROR OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED IS FIRST PRECEDED BY GASPS OF DISBELIEF. EVERY INSTRUMENT IN THE BUNKER RECORDS THE MISSILE'S ASTONISHING FLIGHT WITH UNMISTAKABLE ACCURACY. A DEATHLY SILENCE FALLS UPON THE SHELTERED COMPLEX. NO MAN IS ABLE TO SPEAK...

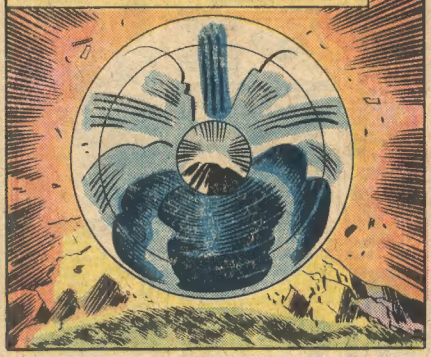
EVERY EYE IS RIVETED ON THE SWIFTLY GROWING OBJECT ON THE T.V. SCREEN. THE MISSILE IS RETURNING TO ITS SENDERS! IT IS ACTIVE -- AND PRIMED TO EXPLODE ON IMPACT!!



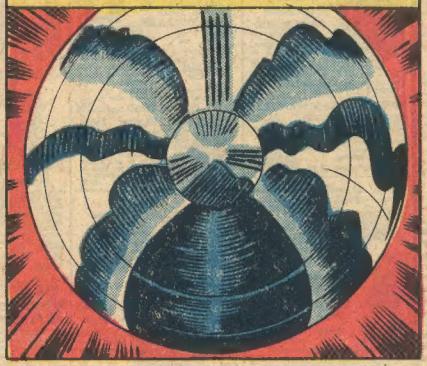
IT IS CLOSER NOW! -- LARGER! -- SHOWING ITS SMOOTH STEEL COAT -- A DOG OF WAR ABOUT TO DEVOUR THE ENTIRE COMPLEX WITH FIERY JAWS!!



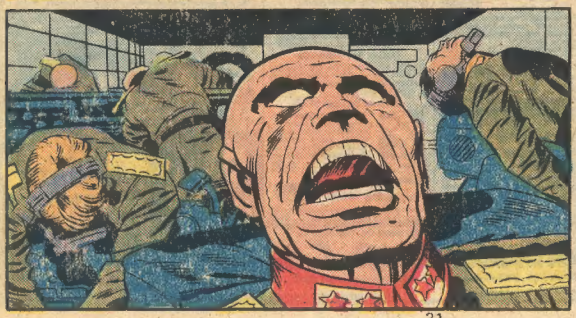
WATCHING IT BEGIN TO FILL THE SCREEN GENERATES UNBEARABLE FEAR!! THERE IS NO TIME TO RUN!! NO TIME TO RUN!



DEATH IS UPON THEM!! RELENTLESS, UNSTOPPABLE DEATH!!!



OF COURSE, IT IS ALL ILLUSION... A POWER OF THE SPACE GODS, INITIATED AT THE MOMENT THE RUSSIAN DECISION HAD BEEN MADE! IN REALITY, THE MISSILE HAS NEVER LEFT ITS SILO. IT RESTS HARMLESSLY IN ITS BERTH -- STILL WAITING TO BE TRIGGERED -- BUT GRESHKOV DOESN'T KNOW THIS. LIKE HIS MEN, HE HAS SUFFERED A MASSIVE CARDIAC ARREST!!!



AS THE CELESTIALS CONTINUE ON IN THEIR MYSTERIOUS WAYS,

THE ETERNALS MEET THE CHALLENGE WITH A GREAT SPECTACULAR!!

DON'T MISS --

THE AWESOME RITUAL OF

UNI-MIND

ETERNAL UTTERINGS

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP, 575 MADISON AVE. N.Y.C. 10022

Dear Jack,

Marvel has one helluva hit on their hands. ETERNALS is by far the best thing you've ever done in comics—the current peak of your career as both writer *and* artist. The plotting, theme, pacing, characterization, and dialogue are sheer perfection, and the art is beautifully suited to the book.

I, for one, am extremely pleased to see that you've shied away from having one main character. All of the central cast should remain in the limelight; I trust you'll keep it like that. I'd even like to see the corner illustration of Ikaris alternate with the others, as did the FF on covers in days of old. I would hate to see the book go back into orbit around Ikaris!

Bryan Hollerback puts down DC for having too many alternate worlds; well, I feel the opposite about Marvel...not enough! You guys have overcrowded your world to a terrible degree, and I am shocked to see that you have now added Eternals, Deviants, and Gods to the mess. I wouldn't mind if you kept the other super-heroes *out* (though the coming of the gods would be of major importance to every hero—so when can we expect all the heroes and villains to unite against these "invaders"?). Knowing you people, however, there will be one hero after another traipsing through.

I like the mag as it stands, I just hope that doesn't change.

Sam Taylor
103 Markham Place
Portland, TX 78374

Well, Sam, as for how ETERNALS is eventually going to be handled, in relation to the other Marvel characters, remains to revealed in upcoming issues. And if you like the mag as it now stands, we've got a hunch you'll flip out when you see how King Kirby develops the whole saga. People, he's just gettin' started!

Dear Jack,

Since the early days of FF, you've given us the best comic-book reading ever. But now you've hit us with *more* than perfection—you've given us ETERNALS! The Gods you draw are great, but the machinery and flying vehicles are indescribably fabulous!

The style and technique you use are recognizable at a sheer glance. The rank of king has to be earned, and Jack Kirby certainly has earned it!

Andy Thompson and Tim Gould
776 Ulloa Street
San Francisco, CA 94127

Dear Jack, Glynis, Mike, Archie, and Irving:

It has become the fashion in fandom to say that Jack Kirby's ETERNALS is nothing more than his NEW GODS revisited, but under a different masthead. Such is, of course, *not* the case, and the reason is more-or-less obvious.

Certainly, there are similarities. Both strips deal with beings far above the level of humanity, and the effect that their battles have upon the race. But where NEW GODS was biblical in scope, ETERNALS is more mythological in nature, depending not so much on personalities (the Greek myths are not as heavy on characters as they are on plot and storytelling), but rather leaning toward explaining man's place in this scheme. NEW GODS was told from Mankind's point of view, looking up at the Gods. ETERNALS is told from the Gods' point of view, looking down. It is doubtful that any comic story now being told has such a large cast of *main* (as opposed to supporting or secondary) characters. Jack is wisely letting us get to know all the species of Gods, Eternals and Deviants, skipping from one Eternal to another, showing us one front of the battle, then another. To be frank, I don't much care whether the book takes place on the normal Marvel-Earth or not. Yes, I realize that Marvel's forte is continuity, and usually I applaud your efforts to keep things straight, but in this instance, I advise letting Jack have a totally free reign, and letting any inconsistencies, irregularities, and just-plain contradictions fall by the wayside, to be examined by those "historians" who would rather *analyze* comics than *enjoy* them. Keep up the good work, Jack, you're doing fine.

Mike W. Barr
484 Spicer St.
Akron, OH 44311

Dear Marvel,

Once again, Kirby's ETERNALS appeared on the stands. And no sooner did I get home and read it than—*Lo and Behold!*—wonders beyond the normal range of the typical comic book were at my fingertips! To begin with, the cover of #7 was the best in the series so far. And that was only the beginning! Pages one through three were among the most overwhelming I've ever seen.

The story of the first, second, and third hosts was interesting. It seems this issue's focus was on the Celestials, which is a good idea considering that the past issues dealt mostly with Eternals vs. Deviants. In a series as magnificent as this, not much can fit into any single issue, and it's good to know that the stories are varied enough to show us more of what's going on than from any single onlooker's view.

The business about "being cut down" is kind of terrifying, and gave the later part of the mag an apprehensive feeling. The ship of the Celestials orbiting Earth almost resembles Galactus' craft in the later FF stories, save that everything seems bigger, more awesome, and extremely more serious. The extra-terrestrial beings here are totally above even communication (unlike Galactus) and so are much more mysterious, causing even more fear than Big G. Speaking of which, I'd like to say again that I don't think this mag should have any connections with any other Marvel series at all.

Even though it's been shown and said before, the impact of the last page was staggering! Keep up the incredible work.

Henry R. Kujawa
1202 Everett Street
Camden, NJ 08104

We'll do more just that, Henry—we'll get even better (at least, that's what Jack keeps tellin' us, and from the contagious enthusiasm he exudes, we've just gotta believe it)! So stay tuned for the next episode in the unfolding drama of ETERNALS—after all, since the national news media seem to be holding back the story (probably because they fear the masses would panic), this is the only place to get the facts!

scanned by *Wizard*